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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 12 Mar 52

SUBJECT Resistance to the Collective Farms in the Ivailovgrad Area.

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1. The Slaveevo (RG-6328) Cooperative was formed in 1949; it extended over approximately 10,000 decares and had two tractors, a combine harvester, and an unknown number of draft animals.

2. The formation of the Cooperative was preceded by an intensive propaganda campaign, and force, including beatings and imprisonments, was employed to persuade villagers to join. The Cooperative was still in existence in October 1951, but many of the peasants had left to seek employment in the towns.

3. In 1949, shortly after the formation of the Slaveevo Cooperative, a propaganda campaign was initiated in the neighboring village of Ledzha (RG-5926) for the formation of a similar cooperative. This campaign was vigorously opposed by the villagers, including local communist party members, who argued that the cooperative system was not suited to Bulgaria and that the Slaveevo experiment had been a failure.

4. In October 1951, as a result of this opposition, only 27 Communists remained of a party membership which numbered 120 in 1949. The remainder, including Dimitur Slavov Vanev, Communist Party Secretary, and Yordan Petrov, Communist Party Official, had been expelled. The cooperative still had not been formed.

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